

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

MONARCHS RETIRED FROM BUSINESS. By Dr. DORAN. New edition, with preface by Dr. Doran. In two volumes, 12mo. Vol. I, pp. 1, 354; Vol. II, pp. 336. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Co.

The reader of these fascinating volumes may well wonder that so much learning and facts and thoughts into a fluent and easy style. For it is a profound and elegant and superficial writers have helped to cultivate, that a head may be too full for successful utterance, and that authors are dull in proportion as they are the slaves of exact information. The truth probably is that a mind may be sprightly and original, and yet have little spare room for storing and sorting great masses of facts. Dr. Doran's was certainly a mind of warehouse dimensions, superintended by a large bump of order, and provided with an ingenious faculty of making everything look fresher and more significant when it came out than when it was stored away. The elder Driscoll had such a mind, with more of a propensity to pleasure and criticism, and Montaigne, who had had one if fortune had not done better by him and regressed so large a share of the seat of reason for high philosophy. Mr. Stoddard, who has given this clean yet very attractive edition the passport of a graceful preface, has no difficulty in finding Dr. Doran superior as an entertaining writer to Diderot. But the ordinary reader will not be very clear in his own mind as to his preference, or will be inclined to favor the one he last read.

"Monarchs Retired from Business" holds its place as the most popular of Dr. Doran's several books, partly because it is intrinsically the best, and partly because this independent age takes a very natural view of kingship, tolerates it as a blighted tree in the landscape so familiar to the eye that to remove it would for a time make the place look too new to be homelike, and, besides, really feels some pity for the sorrows of men who were greater than any single individual but less than the entire people. There are many reasons why this book should hold its own for a great many years. During the last half century monarchs have found business lively but precarious, and the outlook for the future is not more promising. It is instructive, when a dynasty crumbles before our eyes, to read of the earlier ruins on which it was built.

It is a fact which the guardians of prices may have overlooked, that no heir-apparent can afford to be without a copy of "Monarchs Retired from Business." And if it is his good fortune to get Mr. Stoddard's preface along with it, he will receive some enlightenment on the true relation of potentates to the sovereign people. Dr. Doran's pages will teach him what to avoid.

If such a book were possible before the French Revolution, one would like to immerse Frederick the Great reading it. In his own study at Sans Souci, and interpreting such words as "fact," "very true," "natural," "a shabby fellow for a prince," and concluding by inscribing on the fly leaf the name of his nephew and heir, Frederick William II. Frederick had a royal contempt for anybody in his line of business who retired without making an assignment to death.

Mrs. Rose Terry Cooke, the author of "Uncle Josh" and other admirable Yankee stories, is preparing them for publication in book form.

A new red-line edition of Father Ryan's patriotic and religious poems has been issued by John B. Piet, of Baltimore. It contains a fine engraving of the author, and will be welcomed by his numerous admirers.

Chief-Engineer King, of the United States Navy, has written an exhaustive work on "The War-Ships and Navies of the World." (A. Williams & Co., Boston.) It contains 620 pages and sixty-six full-page illustrations.

"Pastoral Days," the beautiful holiday book of which Mr. W. H. Gibson is both author and artist, is, as might be supposed, limited in matter to his magazine articles recently published. The letter-press was considerably increased and several new illustrations were made especially for the book.

The following lines from Tennyson's new volume of poems are intended for a sketch of a hospital surgeon, and have excited the ire of *The British Medical Journal*: "He looks so coarse and so red, I could think he was one of those who could break their fists on the living dog that had loved him and fawned at his knee, and dreamt of the hellish oar—that ever such things should be!"

One of the brightest, wholesomest and handsomest holiday books for girls and boys is Susan Coolidge's "Guernsey Lily" (Roberts Brothers). The author knows how to give a romantic coloring to real child-life, and what was apparent in her delightful book, "What Katy Did." This was in great part a clever transcript of Miss Woolsey's own childhood, and her brothers and sisters for playmates, at her home in Cleveland. "The Paradise" was a reality, a woody nook adjoining the garden, where the children had their picnics. This new book is a fresh, natural picture of boys' and girls' life in the Channel Islands. The illustrations are good. Nothing could be finer in its way than the head of the old fisherman, and there are many clever minor touches like the sketch illustrating how "Time moves slowly for the left behind."

If the London correspondent of *The Toronto Globe* is correctly informed, "Endymion" is not a paying investment for the English publisher. He says: "I have authority for stating that £10,000 was the sum for which the book was sold. The publishers can hardly be congratulated upon their bargain, as the book has found favor neither with the critics nor with the reading public. The demand for it at the circulating libraries fell after the first two or three days, and was nothing like so large as was expected. There is much speculation about the real personages from which the fictitious characters in 'Endymion' are taken, but as a matter of fact prominent characters in this novel are not, as was the case with Lord Beaconsfield's earlier works, intended to be portraits. There can be no doubt that to the fact that it is impossible to identify leading personages in political and social circles with the characters in the book lies the reason of its failure."

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe's recent papers or lectures on "Modern Society" have been issued in a little book by Roberts Brothers. The first paper, which gives the title to the Philosophy. It reads like a hasty production, and finds flaws rather too recklessly in the existing order of things, decries the press almost unparagonably, the tendency to enjoy wealth and the propensity to foreign travel. The style of argument does not commend itself to persons who do not reason from limited premises to sweeping conclusions, as if one were to say some newspapers are not all they ought to be, therefore the whole newspaper press is corrupt. It is true that many persons visit Europe and squander time, not to speak of money, that might better be spent in doing something for the benefit of society at home. But it is also true that many capable stay-at-homes are equally indolent, and might as well be in Europe, except that they are useful to tradesmen if they pay their debts. In a society where wealth accumulates rapidly, extravagance and luxury are not unmixed evils, as many political economists think. The second lecture, on "Changes in American Society," belongs to a rather school of logic, is good in manner and method, and has the merit of being a corrective of much that seems ill-advised in the paper first.

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